

ECONOMIC DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

Intelligence Request No.
Control No.
20 October 1955

DOC Exemption Letter In EUR File

SUBJECT

Soviet Attempts to Procure Colloxylin.

REQUESTING AGENCY AND DATE

Bureau of Foreign Commerce, 20 October 1955

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

As soon as possible.

PROPOSED USE

To determine the Soviet Bloc supply position and uses of colloxylin and to evaluate the importance of Soviet attempts to procure this commodity.

BACKGROUND

A purchasing agent believed to be connected with SOJUZHNIM EXPORT has contacted an affiliate of a US company in the Hague seeking samples and prices on a variety of grades, with different viscosities, of "Kolleksilina" to be ordered later in large (carload) quantities by the Soviets, if acceptable. "Kolleksilina" is believed to be the Russian language version of Colloxylin which was sold to the Soviets in large quantities by Hercules and Dupont during World War II for rocket fuel. A plant capable of making this material was turned over to RAZNOIMPORT during the Lend-Lease era.

This commodity is a cellulosic nitrate containing 11% nitrogen. While not explosive enough to be useful in the manufacture of gunpowder, it can be enriched for the purpose. Without change, it may be used as rocket fuel due to its fast rate of combustion. It can also be used for manufacturing lacquers and film or sheeting.

ACTION DESIRED

The above request is circulated to EDIC members for information prior to consideration at the next EDIC meeting.